

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01529 041230Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----041835Z 125557 /46

R 041137Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4309
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1529

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SU
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI'S VIEWS ON HORN DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: WHILE STILL SUPPORTING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR
ERITREA, NIMEIRI BELIEVES STRUGGLE THERE WILL BE LONG
AND HARD. CHIEF THREAT TO TFAI INDEPENDENCE HE CLAIMS NOW
RPT NOW COMES FROM ETHIOPIA. RECENT EVOLUTION SITUATION
IN SOMALIA HAS CONTINUED TO BE FAVORABLE BUT PDRY UNLIKELY
MODIFY ITS PRO-COMMUNIST POLICY SOON. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING EXTENDED DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI
MAY 3, HE VOICED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN SELF-
DETERMINATION BUT SAID HE HAD TOLD ELF AND PLF REPS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KHARTO 01529 041230Z

THAT IT WOULD BE ERROR FOR THEM TO THINK IN TERMS
OF IMMINENT VICTORY. DESPITE PROPAGANDA, NIMEIRI
CLAIMED ERITREAN GUERRILLAS ARE RECEIVING RELATIVELY
LITTLE HELP AND NEED MORE. HE AGREED MY COMMENT THAT
MILITARY SOLUTION UNLIKELY BUT CLAIMED EPMG REMAINS
UNINTERESTED IN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. DIRG STILL
TRYING SOLVE PROBLEM BY FORCE, AS INDICATED BY

REPORTS OF UPCOMING PEASANT'S MARCH WHICH, NIMEIRI CLAIMED, WOULD NEVER REACH ERITREA AS TIGRE GUERRILLAS WOULD NOT ALLOW MARCHERS TO PASS. PRESIDENT SAID PARENTHETICALLY THAT NUMBER TIGRE OFFICERS IN ETHIOPIAN ARMY WERE BEGINNING TO RESIGN.

2. WHEN I ASKED HIM RE HIS RECENT MESSAGES FROM TITO AND NYERERE ON SUDAN/ETHIOPIA ISSUE (KHARTOUM 1502), NIMEIRI REPLIED THAT NO MEDIATION BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND ADDIS WOULD BE FEASIBLE UNTIL THERE IS EPMG RECOGNITION OF ERITREAN RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. NIMEIRI STRESSED UNIQUE ASPECTS THIS ISSUE WHICH SET IT APART FROM OAU CHARTER SUPPORT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ALL MEMBER STATES. ERITREA HAD BEEN AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM TO WHICH U.N. HAS PROPOSED FORMULA FOR SETTLEMENT. NIMEIRI THOUGH OAU MEMBERS WERE INCREASINGLY COMING TO SEE VALIDITY IN THIS POSITION.

3. VIEW FOREGOING, NIMEIRI STRESSED THAT ERITREA COULD NOT, AS DIRG BELIEVES, BE TREATED ON SAME BASIS AS OTHER ETHIOPIAN PROVINCES. IT IS SPECIAL CASE WHICH, NIMEIRI THOUGHT, MERITED MORE POSITIVE POLICY ON PART USG. IN FACT, USG SHOULD SUPPORT ERITREANS, SINCE SOVIETS MORE INTERESTED IN RED SEA LITTORAL THAN HIGHLANDS. PRESIDENT SAID SUDAN GOVT WOULD SEE ANY SUCH HELP REACHED GUERRILLAS PROMPTLY. I REPLIED THAT WE CONTINUED REGARD ERITREAN ISSUE AS INTERNAL MATTER AND HOPED THAT IT COULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KHARTO 01529 041230Z

THE PARTIES.

4. ON DJIBOUTI, NIMEIRI SAID THAT ONLY THREAT TO STABILITY MIGHT COME FROM ETHIOPIA WHICH MIGHT INVADE COUNTRY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. HE CLAIMED EPMG ALREADY TRAINING ISSAS. REPLIED PERSONALLY THAT THIS WOULD HARDLY SEEM IN ETHIOPIAN INTEREST AS SONG AS SOMALIA HELD ITS HAND, BUT NIMEIRI BRUSHED THIS ASIDE.

5. RE SOMALIA, NIMEIRI SAID SITUATION WAS CONTINUING TO EVOLVE FAVORABLY FOR MODERATE ARABS AND WEST, BUT PROVIDED NO DETAILS OR TIMETABLE.

6. AS FOR PDRY, NIMEIRI MENTIONED ABDEL FATTAH ISMAIL AS STRONG FIGURE WHO IS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO ANY SWING AWAY FROM PRO-SOVIET POLICIES ON PART ADEN REGIME. NIMEIRI CLAIMED ISMAIL NO MARXIST BUT WAS CONVINCED OF NEED FOR SOVIET SUPPORT.

7. IN RESPONSE QUESTION RE RED SEA SUMMIT MEETING, NIMEIRI REPLIED VAGUELY THAT CONTACTS WERE CONTINUING BUT OFFERED NO SPECIFICS AS TO WHEN SESSION MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

8. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST MY RECENT TALKS WITH NIMEIRI, HE APPEARED LESS CONFIDENT OR ACTIVIST. WHILE HIS LINE WAS THE SAME, HE STRESSED DIFFICULTIES IN WAY ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH WOOLING PDRY AWAY FROM COMMUNISTS, RATHER THAN THE OPPORTUNITIES. HIS ATTITUDE, AND EVEN MORE THE SUBDUED MIEN OF FONMIN KHALID (WHO WAS PRESENT), SUGGEST SUDANESE AWARE (A) DANGERS FROM THEIR STANDPOINT IN CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL AREA TENSION; AND ((B) THEIR OWN LIMITED RESOURCES TO COPE WITH EVENTUALITIES. BREWER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 KHARTO 01529 041230Z

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USCINCEUR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO01529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0917
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770596/aaaadfav.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c83169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2646997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI'S VIEWS ON HORN DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: WHILE STILL SUPPORTING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ERITREA, NIMEIRI BELIEVES STRUGGLE THERE WILL BE L
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PDEV, SU, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c83169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009